

Application No. 09/733,156

Page 9 of 9

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the present application.

Claims 17-19 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,982,761 (Dutta) in view of USPN 6,799,019 (Eilts); and claims 20, 21, 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dutta in view of Eilts, and further in view of USPN 6,834,039 (Kelly).

Claims 1-16 and 27-42 are allowed, and claims 24 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In response, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims 17-23 and 26, and have amended claims 24 and 25 to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Craig Plastrik, at 301-601-7252, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



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